

## The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

LOU D'ALLESANDRO Senate District 20 State House, Room 117 (603) 271-2117

March 22, 2016

Martin Honigberg, Chairman New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee 21 South Fruit St., Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Honigberg,

A growing economy depends on having an ample supply of energy at a reasonable cost. As New Hampshire moves down the road toward a fully competitive energy market, the need for a sufficient and diverse energy supply is of utmost concern for our businesses, homeowners and anyone who has to pay an electric bill.

That's why the revised Northern Pass project – "Forward New Hampshire" -- makes so much sense for our state. This project will deliver ample amounts of clean hyrdo power into our regional energy grid and help stabilize and drive down energy costs for decades to come.

Our region suffers from an inadequate supply of power, which makes our electric rates higher than anywhere else in the country. The high cost of energy creates a real strain on families, homeowners and businesses, and makes us less economically competitive. The Northern Pass will deliver 1,000 mw of power – a little less than the Seabrook nuclear plant – into our region, driving down the cost of power, and saving New Hampshire ratepayers \$80 million a year. In addition, New Hampshire customers will benefit from a power purchase agreement that ensures our customers get the guaranteed lowest rate.

NH needs good-paying jobs and economic development. Northern Pass will create over 2,000 good paying jobs during construction, and Eversource has committed to hiring New Hampshire workers. But even more important – by bringing down the cost of energy, we incentivize business to expand and relocate here in New Hampshire. Lowering the cost of energy is among the most important steps we can take to help improve our economic future.

We must protect our environment. The power coming through Northern Pass is clean power, generated from water turbines in Canada. This is exactly the kind of clean, sustainable energy strategy we've identified as a priority for New Hampshire.

We need a project route that works for New Hampshire. The new route includes 60 miles of burial, including in and around the White Mountains, lower structure heights, and other modifications. It's clear to me the Eversource has listened, respected and responded to New Hampshire concerns about the need to minimize project impacts.

It is my belief that the Northern Pass project is one answer to our energy need – the need is now.

Singerely,

Lou D'Allesandro